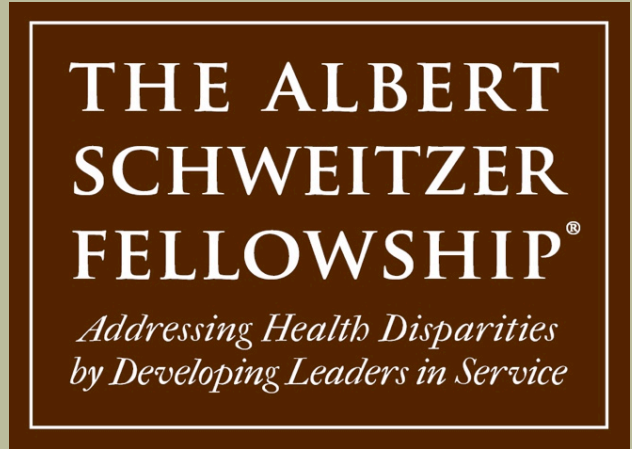


THE COLUMBUS-ATHENS SCHWEITZER FELLOWS PROGRAM

Purpose: To facilitate service projects to benefit the Columbus and Athens communities, and simultaneously develop emerging professionals who have the skills to address unmet health-related needs throughout their careers.



“Start early to instill in your students awareness that they are on this earth to help and serve others; that is as important to pass on to them as knowledge.”

—Albert Schweitzer, PhD, MD

Counseling, Testing, and Referral:

Improving Access to HIV and STI Services in the Hispanic Community

Introduction

In the US, Hispanics are disproportionately affected by HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STI). In 2011, Hispanics accounted for 21% of newly-diagnosed HIV infections, but only represented 17% of the US population. Language barriers may lead to limited access to health care services, and contribute to a higher prevalence of HIV in this population.



Partnerships

The project agency is **Columbus Public Health (CPH)**, which serves the community through clinical, environmental, health promotion, and population-based services. Other collaborators were **OSU Latino Free Clinic**, **Panadería Guadalupe**, a bakery in the Northland neighborhood of Columbus, and other local agencies.

Intervention

Counseling, Testing, and Referral (CTR)

- HIV testing program developed by the CDC to
 - 1) promote early knowledge of HIV status
 - 2) provide information on transmission, prevention, and the meaning of HIV test results
 - 3) promote access to needed medical, preventive, and psychosocial support services

Project

A free, comprehensive HIV and STI testing program conducted in Spanish throughout Columbus

- Counseled clients on sexual health, risk-reduction strategies through CTR
- Provided patients with free HIV, chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis screenings
- Used 20-minute OraQuick HIV test
- Collaborated with CPH Sexual Health, Community Services team for testing and follow-up
- Laboratory services and testing supplies provided by Community Services through CPH

Impact

- Reached out to more than 100 individuals with educational and promotional materials
- Provided 26 HIV, 25 chlamydia and gonorrhea, and 24 syphilis tests



Future

- **Sustainability:** Monthly testing at Panadería Guadalupe with Hispanic representative from CPH
- **Expansion:** Collaborate with local agencies for yearly health fair and establish bi-weekly testing at OSU Latino Free Clinic



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